



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO609

Site Name: Fairland Branch

Prehistoric ☒

Other name(s) Jackson Homestead

Historic ☒

Unknown ☐

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic-Late Woodland short-term camps; Mid 19th-Early 20th century African American farmstead

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.0801 Longitude -76.9434

Elevation m Site slope 0-5%

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 12

SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site ☒

Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☒ Maritime site ☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Fairland Branch

Saltwater

Ocean ☐

Estuary/tidal river ☐

Tidewater/marsh ☐

Spring ☐

Minimum distance to water is 3 m

Freshwater

Stream/river ☒

Swamp ☒

Lake or pond ☐

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site ☐

Woodland site ☐

Archaic site ☐

MD Adena ☐

Early archaic P

Early woodland Y

Middle archaic Y

Mid. woodland ☐

Late archaic Y

Late woodland Y

Contact period site ☐

ca. 1820 - 1860 Y

ca. 1630 - 1675 ☐

ca. 1860 - 1900 Y

ca. 1675 - 1720 ☐

ca. 1900 - 1930 Y

ca. 1720 - 1780 ☐

Post 1930 ☐

ca. 1780 - 1820 ☐

Unknown historic context ☐

Unknown prehistoric context ☐

Unknown context ☐

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American ☐

Asian American ☐

African American Y

Unknown ☐

Anglo-American ☐

Other ☐

Hispanic ☐

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component ☒

Misc. ceremonial ☐

Village ☐

Rock art ☐

Hamlet ☐

Shell midden ☐

Base camp ☐

STU/lithic scatter ☒

Rockshelter/cave ☐

Quarry/extraction ☐

Earthen mound ☐

Fish weir ☐

Cairn ☐

Production area ☒

Burial area ☐

Unknown ☐

Other context ☐

Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

Homestead ☒

Farmstead ☒

Mansion ☐

Plantation ☐

Row/townhome ☐

Cellar ☒

Privy ☐

Industrial

Mining-related ☐

Quarry-related ☐

Mill ☐

Black/metalsmith ☐

Furnace/forge ☐

Other ☐

Transportation

Canal-related ☐

Road/railroad ☐

Wharf/landing ☐

Maritime-related ☐

Bridge ☐

Ford ☐

Educational

Commercial

Trading post ☐

Store ☐

Tavern/inn ☐

Military

Battlefield ☐

Fortification ☐

Encampment ☐

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house ☐

Ch support bldg ☐

Burial area

Cemetery ☐

Sepulchre ☐

Isolated burial ☐

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure ☒

Post-in-ground ☐

Frame-built ☒

Masonry ☐

Other structure ☐

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump ☒

Artifact scatter ☒

Spring or well ☐

Unknown ☐

Other context ☐

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken Y

Other samples taken

Faunal analysis, New South Associates, Georgia; DNA analysis, Paleo-DNA Laboratory, Ontario, Canada



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO609

Site Name: Fairland Branch

Prehistoric ☒

Other name(s) Jackson Homestead

Historic ☒

Unknown ☐

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic-Late Woodland short-term camps; Mid 19th-Early 20th century African American farmstead

Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types	
Clovis	<input type="text"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="text"/>
Palmer	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="text"/>
Le Croy	<input type="text"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Guilford	<input type="text"/>
Brewerton	<input type="text"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="text"/>
Koens-Crispin	<input type="text"/>
Perkiomen	<input type="text"/>
Susquehanna	<input type="text"/>
Vernon	<input type="text"/>
Piscataway	<input type="text"/>
Calvert	<input type="text"/>
Selby Bay	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="text"/>
Madison/Potomac	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Levanna	<input type="text"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="text"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="text"/>	Shepard	<input type="text"/>	Keyser	<input type="text"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="text"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text"/>	Townsend	<input type="text"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="text"/>
Selden Island	<input type="text"/>	Watson	<input type="text"/>	Minguannan	<input type="text"/>	Monongahela	<input type="text"/>
Accokeek	<input type="text"/>	Mockley	<input type="text"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="text"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="text"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="text"/>		
Vinette	<input type="text"/>	Page	<input type="text"/>	Moyaone	<input type="text"/>		
				Potomac Cr	<input type="text"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="text" value="37"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="text"/>	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="text"/>	Jackfield	<input type="text"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="text"/>	English Brown	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Borderware	<input type="text"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="text"/>	Whiteware	<input type="text" value="3198"/>	Eng Dry-bodie	<input type="text"/>
Buckley	<input type="text"/>	North Devon	<input type="text"/>	Porcelain	<input type="text" value="286"/>	Nottingham	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Creamware	<input type="text" value="11"/>	Pearlware	<input type="text" value="24"/>			Rhenish	<input type="text"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="text"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts	
Flaked stone	<input type="text" value="511"/>
Ground stone	<input type="text"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="text"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="text"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="text"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="text"/>
Other fired clay	<input type="text"/>
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Modified faunal	<input type="text"/>
Unmod faunal	<input type="text"/>
Oyster shell	<input type="text"/>
Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Uncommon Obj.	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="text"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="text"/>
Midden	<input type="text"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>
Shell midden	<input type="text"/>	Ossuary	<input type="text"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="text"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="text"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="text"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="text"/>
Chert	<input type="text"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="text"/>	European flint	<input type="text"/>
Rhyolite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="text"/>	Basalt	<input type="text"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="text"/>		

☒ Dated features present at site

19th century slave cabin and freedmen homestead

Historic Artifacts	
Pottery (all)	<input type="text" value="7573"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="text" value="26351"/>
Architectural	<input type="text" value="29880"/>
Furniture	<input type="text" value="952"/>
Arms	<input type="text" value="280"/>
Clothing	<input type="text" value="3948"/>
Personal items	<input type="text" value="888"/>
Tobacco related	<input type="text" value="426"/>
Activity item(s)	<input type="text" value="4284"/>
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Misc. kitchen	<input type="text" value="44746"/>
Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Misc.	<input type="text" value="55885"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="text"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="text"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="text"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="text"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="text"/>	Road/walkway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="text"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 2:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 3:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 5:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 6:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 8:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 9:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability

☐ Additional radiocarbon results available



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO609

Site Name: Fairland Branch

Prehistoric ☒

Other name(s) Jackson Homestead

Historic ☒

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic-Late Woodland short-term camps; Mid 19th-Early 20th century African American farmstead

Unknown ☐

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Fairland Branch Site (18MO609) is the archeological remains of the mid 19th-early 20th century Jackson family homestead, a free African-American homestead, in the Fairland area of Montgomery County. A prehistoric presence is also present at the site in the form of a series of Middle Archaic-Late Woodland short-term camps. The site encompasses the upper portions and side slopes of three ridges that are separated by the upper reaches of the Fairland Branch of Little Paint Branch Creek. The topography in the vicinity of the site consists of rolling ridge lines and hills divided by a series of small drainages and creeks. Trees in the vicinity of the site include oak, hickory, beech, pine, tulip poplar, slippery elm, American hornbeam, and American holly. Ground vegetation includes eastern poison ivy, greenbrier, multiflora rose, blackberry/raspberry, and pachysandra. Soils at the site include Croom gravelly loams and both Beltsville and Glenelg silt loams.

Much of the property that came to make up Fairland and nearby Burtonsville was once part of two large parcels patented in the early 18th century. Archibald Edmondson originally patented 800 acres as "Bear Garden Enlarged" in 1721. He subsequently patented the adjacent 682 acre tract of "Deer Park" in 1724. In 1785, a Zachariah Downs of Montgomery County purchased a small section of "Deer Park". This 6.25 acre parcel was an irregular, linear section of the larger tract. In 1803, Zachariah purchased two sections (21.5 acres and 148 acres), "Part of Deer Park and Bear Garden Enlarged", along with other tract deemed vacant by the court, to patent his 175.75 acre parcel called "Prospect of Peace".

Zachariah Downs was born ca. 1750 and lived in Montgomery County as early as 1777, when he joined the militia as a Private. He married Elizabeth Ann Mason in the 1770s and, together, the couple had 8 children. In 1778, Zachariah signed an Oath of Fidelity to the Colonial government and served during the American Revolution in the Lower Battalion of Montgomery County. He appears in the 1783 Tax Assessment for Montgomery County as a resident of Lower Newfoundland, Rock Creek, and North West Hundred. He was assessed for three properties. One of the properties was not named, but the other properties were "Slip" (21 acres) and "Bear Garden and Deer Park Enlarged" (155 acres). Zachariah was apparently a tenant, as the official land conveyance does not appear in the land records until 1785.

In 1790, the Downs household consisted of Zachariah, four white females, one "Free Yellow and Black male 16 years and upward", and one "Free Yellow and Black male under 16 years". No slaves were recorded at the time. By 1820, there were six white family members and eight enslaved African-Americans (one male under age 14, two males between the ages of 14 and 26, two females under age 14, and three females between the ages of 14 and 26). Unfortunately, the census records from this period do not provide names for anyone other than the head of household.

Downs' wife, Elizabeth, died in 1820 and their daughter, Mary, died in 1823, leaving Benjamin, Ann Magruder, John, Richard M., Elizabeth, William, and Leanah. Zachariah wrote his will in 1826 and died in 1831. The will provides details on his property, family, and 10 slaves. His daughter, Ann Magruder Downs, inherited 100 acres of land, including Zachariah's dwelling house, orchards, spring house, and woodlots along with a slave woman named "Rachel", and some furniture items. Zachariah's son, Richard, received two young enslaved girls, Calline and Sarah, and the remaining seven enslaved people apparently were divided among the siblings. Zachariah's will also stipulated that all of the slaves be set free when they reached the age of 35 and that they were not to be sold out-of-the state or otherwise transferred. One of the 7 slaves listed in Zachariah's will was a four-month-old child named "Malinda" who appears to have gone to the Ann Magruder Downs' household.

Ann Magruder Downs, the oldest surviving daughter of Zachariah Downs, never married. In 1840, she was living in the family home of the Prospect of Peace tract. Her household consisted of a white female less than 10 years of age, possibly a relative, and a free African-American male between the ages of 35 and 55. Rachel, willed to Ann by her father in 1831, is not listed in the 1840 Census.

In 1850, Ann was 69 years old and is listed as the head of household living with her cousins, Alfred (age 33) and Martha Wheeler (age 16), and Edward Adams (age 50), a free African-American laborer. Ann also owned 4 slaves: 52-year-old Rachel, whose last name is unknown (but possibly Adams), Malinda Adams (age 22), and unidentified male (age 25), and a child (age 1). Rachel and Malinda appear to have been with Ann since the death of Ann's father in 1831. Rachel appears to have been Malinda's mother and it is likely Edward Adams was her father. It should be noted that Rachel was not manumitted at age 35 as stipulated in Zachariah's will.

In 1860, Ann was the only free person listed in her household. At that time, assessment records indicate she had one slave quarter. The enslaved residents at Prospect of Peace included Rachel (age 63), Malinda (35), and four mulatto boys (ages 1,3,5, and 11). The four boys were presumably the children of Malinda. Shortly before writing her will in 1870, Ann sold an 8.75 acre section of Prospect of Peace for \$8.57 per acre to Malinda. Ann specifically sold the property to Malinda and "the said children of Malinda Jackson of said county and state". The children are not named in the deed but appear in the 1870 US Census as George (age 15), Milburn (13), Thomas E. (11), Emma J. (8), and Mary E. (age 5).

In 1870, Ann was 89 years old and lived with her niece, Elizabeth Ellen Downs Wheeler, the daughter of her brother Benjamin, Elizabeth's husband, Grafton Wheeler, and their five children: Sarah A. (age 11), William P. (9), Joseph (6), John A. (5) and Elizabeth E. (age 3). An African-American farm laborer from North Carolina named Samson Ferguson also lived with the Wheelers. When Ann wrote her will in 1870, she left the Wheelers her household effects and the remaining land left to her by her father. Ann died in 1872. Additional archival research reveals that the Wheelers and the Downs families were related to each other through multiple marriages.

Through these familial connections, African Americans with the surname "Adams" worked for and lived with members of the Wheeler and Downs families. Before the Civil War, African American freedmen with the surname Adams appear in the Downs and related households. Moreover, they remained in the service of the Downs and descendant families after the Civil War. However, their exact relation to each other is difficult to ascertain. For example, in 1870, brothers, Alfred (age 7) and Andrew (age 5) Adams, lived with Martha Wheeler and her family. The same was true in 1880, but the brothers were listed as farm laborers. It is presumed that these Adams family members were related to Malinda Adams Jackson through her father, Edward Adams.

Based on her age given in Zachariah Downs' will of March 24, 1826 (4 months), Malinda Adams appears to have been born into slavery in Fairland in December of 1825. As noted previously, her mother, Rachel, was enslaved to Zachariah and later to his daughter, Ann Magruder Downs. Malinda's father was likely Edward Adams, a free African-American who lived in Ann's household in 1840. Malinda and both of her parents were in the Downs household in 1850. She apparently had one child, described by descendents as a "natural-born child", named John T. Adams by that time.



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO609

Site Name: Fairland Branch

Prehistoric ☒

Other name(s) Jackson Homestead

Historic ☒

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic-Late Woodland short-term camps; Mid 19th-Early 20th century African American farmstead

Unknown ☐

Sometime prior to or during the Civil War, Malinda married Thomas Jackson. In 1860, a Thomas Jackson was listed as a free 30-year-old mulatto laborer living with the Joseph Soper family on a farm directly adjacent to that of Ann Magruder Downs. It is presumed that this is the same Thomas Jackson who married Malinda and fathered her five youngest children. These children were born with the surname "Jackson" before or during the Civil War, suggesting that Malinda married Thomas while still enslaved. During slavery, this marriage would have required the permission of Ann. It does not appear, however, that Thomas and Malinda lived in the same household, as records never document Thomas as a member of the Downs or Jackson households. It is possible that Thomas died before 1870 and that is why he does not appear in census records. The role her husband played in her life and that of her children is unknown. The pattern of husbands and wives living on separate plantation was not uncommon during slavery and may have continued for a period after the war. This may explain Thomas not appearing on the census records for the Jackson homestead.

Once the Civil War ended and Malinda Jackson was freed, Malinda may have stayed with the Downs family as a servant until at least July 9th, 1869, when she purchased the 8.75 acre section of Prospect of Peace from Ann. This lot contains Site 18MO609. The deed describes a domestic structure, likely the same single-pen cabin that she and her family occupied during slavery. It appears that sometime after Malinda purchased the property, the house was expanded to form a hall and parlor style house, with the single-pen cabin side serving as a kitchen and the addition serving as a parlor.

While the Fairland area was generally characterized by large farms owned by white males, both Malinda Adams Jackson and Ann Magruder Downs were female heads of household during tumultuous times in the mid 19th century. Property ownership was important, especially during this period, as former slaves attempted to exert control over their formerly bonded lives. Since most freedmen had few assets, they could typically only purchase small tracts of land. They often supplemented their income from their small subsistence farms by working as agricultural laborers on the larger nearby white-owned farms. Female heads of households were often described in the census records as having no occupation, while older sons were described as laborers. It is likely that this was the case with the Jackson family. The relationship between the Jackson and Downs families may have lasted past 1869. Some of Malinda's children were farm laborers and it is possible they continued to work for the Downs family until later in the 19th century.

In the 1870 census, Malinda Adams Jackson is listed as a 42-year-old black female, although she was likely 44 or 45 years old based on Zachariah Downs' will and earlier census records. Malinda's mother, Rachel, was likely deceased by 1870, as she does not appear in the census with either the Jackson or Downs families. Malinda was the head of household with her five youngest children, George (age 15), Milburn (13), Thomas E. (11), Emma J. (8), and Mary E. (5). Her husband, Thomas Jackson, does not appear in the 1870 Census with either Malinda's household or the Sopers'. He may have moved farther away or died at a relatively early age. Malinda's eldest child, John T. Adams, was no longer living at home in 1870. Census records for the City of Baltimore list a John Adams as a mariner. Whether this was the same John Adams is unclear. However, naval buttons would eventually be found at the site during archeological excavations, which may provide some corroborating evidence for this possibility.

Malinda's occupation in 1870 was listed as "keeps house" and she had real estate valued at \$200, reflecting her modest house and 8.75 acre property. Her 15-year-old son, George, was shown as a farm laborer and apparently helped to support the family. It is unclear whether he worked on Malinda's property or another farm in the area (possibly on the Downs property or the Soper farm, where his father had worked).

US Census data indicates that three generations of Jacksons lived on the property between 1870 and at least 1910. Malinda died sometime between 1870 and 1879, but more likely later in that decade (based on an 1879 map that labels a dwelling in the approximate location at 18MO609 as "Mrs. Jackson's Heirs"). Neither George nor Milburn Jackson was present on any census of the property after 1870. Milburn does not appear in any record after 1870 and may have lived outside Maryland or died at an early age. George may have lived nearby.

In 1880, most of Malinda's children lived in the Jackson family home. Her eldest son, John T. Adams, was listed as the head of household. He married Mary Jane Walker of Virginia and they had a 10-year-old daughter named Mary Ida Adams. It appears that John moved back to the family home to serve as head of household once his mother died. His unmarried half-siblings, Thomas, Emma Jean (also known as Emma Jane), and Mary E., were living in the household. An infant named Ella Jackson is also listed in the census, but the identity of her parents is unknown. She may have been the daughter of Emma J. or Mary E. An unrelated African-American adult male named Samuel Dorsey also lived in the household as a farm laborer. A number of Dorseys resided in the area and perhaps Samuel was formerly a neighbor or a neighbor's child. SaueI Dorsey would not be the last "boarder" listed along with the Jacksons in the census records.

Interestingly, the 1880 Census listed 13 woodchoppers (seven households) in the vicinity of the Jackson homestead. Some may have boarded at the Jackson homestead. Both John T. Adams and his half-brother, Thomas Jackson, were employed as woodchoppers. Other than the brothers, John and Thomas, none of the woodchoppers were present in earlier or later census records for the area, suggesting that they were transient laborers. This was a period of significant growth in the area and the men likely were employed to clear trees for new housing, roads, or fuel. It is possible that John moved back to the family house not only to serve as head of household, but also to take advantage of economic opportunities present in Fairland. Neither brother was working as a woodchopper in 1900 or thereafter.

For approximately 40 years following Malinda's death, members of the Jackson family continued to live on her homestead though the census data reflects a number of changes in the specific makeup of the Jackson household. Seven Jackson family members are shown on the census in 1870. Eight are shown on the 1880 Census, though some had left and some had returned to the family home. In 1900, only two Jackson family members were living at the homestead. Nine people were living at the homestead in 1910: seven family members and two boarders. Some family members generally stayed on site, while others came and went. It appears a few generally stayed at the homestead, while others left to establish their own families. Some likely left for economic reasons, and some came and went throughout the family's occupation of the site until it burned ca. 1915.

In 1916, following the catastrophic fire of 1915, Malinda's daughter, Mary E., sold the property to Alexander Kilgour who in-turn sold it to Perry Eli Johnson in 1917. Johnson was married to one of Malinda's granddaughters, Mary Jane Adams. Records indicate that no one was occupying the home site at the time of the 1917 sale. It appears that no one rebuilt on the property, but Perry Johnson held the tract until 1944, when he sold it and ended the 75 year family ownership of the property.

Marshall Lehman purchased the property in 1944, but did not live on the tract. Moreover, the 1943 USGS map and a 1948 real estate map of the area shows neither a structure nor a road leading to the property. It remained a small isolated parcel until after the construction of Maryland Route 29 in the mid 1950s. Lehman's son, Melvin, sold the parcel to the State of Maryland Roads Commission in 1955 for the construction of MD 29. The state, in turn, sold it to William Magruder after the construction of the road.



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO609

Site Name: Fairland Branch

Prehistoric ☒

Other name(s) Jackson Homestead

Historic ☒

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic-Late Woodland short-term camps; Mid 19th-Early 20th century African American farmstead

Unknown ☐

The site was first identified archeologically in 2004 during the course of a Phase I survey for the (then) proposed Intercounty Connector (ICC) project. The ICC is a multi-modal east-west highway linking the I-270 and I-95/US 1 corridors within central and eastern Montgomery County and northwestern Prince George's County, north of Washington DC. Construction of the highway was to necessitate significant impacts to the landscape within the highway's footprint. The Phase I work was carried out in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and other pieces of state and federal legislation mandating consideration for cultural resources.

Within the vicinity of 18MO609, a total of 207 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated, identifying three discrete prehistoric loci (A, B, and C). STPs were initially placed at 20 m intervals, which were then reduced to 10 m intervals around positive finds. Locus A produced 55 artifacts (3 bifaces, 51 pieces of debitage, and a fire-cracked rock), Locus B produced 46 artifacts (1 tool fragment and 45 pieces of debitage), and Locus C produced a bifurcated point, a Dry Brook fishtail, a Morrow Mountain (or possibly Piscataway) point, 1 other biface, 1 core, and 80 pieces of debitage. In addition, Locus C produced 41 historic artifacts and an unmortared fieldstone foundation was noted near the crest of a ridge. Most of the historic artifacts came from an artifact dump about 25 m south of the foundation. Since most of these materials dated to ca. 1900-1920, the site was thought to be too recent to be of historic significance. The historic assemblage included an accordion reed plate, a porcelain doll leg, a glass button, a clothing rivet, 2 nails, 1 piece of window glass, 24 ceramic sherds (2 pearlware, 12 whiteware, 5 yellowware, 4 stoneware, 1 porcelain), and 10 container glass fragments.

When archeological researchers returned to the site in 2008 to conduct Phase II work in association with the ICC construction, they did so based primarily on concern for the prehistoric resources identified in 2004. Ultimately, research attention would turn towards the investigation of the aforementioned fieldstone foundation in Locus C and associated historic artifacts.

Phase II work in 2008 included the manual excavation of STPs and 1 X 1 m test units. STPs were excavated at 10 m intervals in order to identify artifact concentrations and refine site boundaries. Test units were judgmentally placed to investigate artifact concentrations or building foundations associated with the historic occupation. Shovel testing initially was confined to the prehistoric components in Loci A, B, and C identified in 2004. The Phase II field investigations were later expanded to include the historic component in Locus C based on field observations and the results of initial shovel testing. The investigation of Locus C of 18MO609 ultimately led to full-scale Phase III data recovery at the site.

Due to the large size of the site (roughly 11 acres) and distance between loci, three separate grids were established. Once loci boundaries were re-established and refined during shovel testing, test units were excavated to evaluate the vertical integrity of the site, investigate artifact concentrations, and identify potential cultural features. Soils in test units were excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels within natural stratigraphic layers.

The Phase III data recovery focused on the approximately .34 acre core of the Jackson homestead, which included a house foundation, two other structural features, and yard areas. Phase III investigations consisted of a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey and hand excavation of test units. One hundred percent of the house interior was excavated and a sample of the house exterior and yards was taken. Because historic research and archeological evidence indicated that the site was occupied by African-Americans and that there were artifacts associated with West African-derived spiritual practices (e.g. quartz crystals), field methods also included dismantling the house foundation and chimney (after their documentation) to determine if there were any other artifacts associated with such practices.

All test units and features were hand excavated (i.e. shovel shaved or troweled) according to either natural or cultural strata. During the Phase II study, excavations continued at least 10 cm into subsoil to ensure culturally sterile deposits had been encountered. During Phase III investigations, the Phase II data were used as a guide to determine how deep the test units should be excavated with only a sample of test units excavated 10 cm into subsoil. Excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth to ensure uniform artifact recovery. Artifacts were placed in bags labeled with the provenience, date, and excavators' initials.

Field data for the Phase II and III investigations was recorded on standard forms and in general field notes. A site map depicting the location of STPs, test units, features, and areas of disturbance was prepared. Photographs of archeological features, soil layers, and general site conditions were taken. All soil from STPs and test units was screened through hardware cloth for uniform artifact recovery.

With the exception of large features, all cultural features were mapped, bisected, profiled, and photographed. One feature, which was filled with modern trash, was partially excavated with a backhoe, and then sampled with test units at levels expected to be less affected by modern disturbance. All features associated with the Jackson dwelling foundation were excavated in their entirety. Due to its size, the Jackson dwelling was gridded into 1 X 1 m test units. At least one wall profile of each test unit was drawn and photographed. Flotation samples were taken from the Jackson dwelling and other feature contexts, as appropriate. Documentation of features included mapping and photographing in both plan and profile views, and narrative notes on feature forms describing the features' shapes and dimensions, content/inclusions, soil textures and colors, elevations, artifacts, samples taken, and interpretation/feature types.

The geophysical investigation was conducted using a Sensors & Software, Inc. Noggin Smart Cart ground penetrating radar (GPR) system with a 250 MHz scanning antenna. This setup would ensure relatively high-resolution imagery with penetration to a depth of approximately 3 m (within the expected range for features at this site). The GPR data was analyzed line by line, noting any potential stratigraphic breaks that could be indicative of walls or pit features. A table of X, Y, and Z positions was included in the analysis. The GPR data was analyzed and any anomalies detected were investigated to determine if they represented cultural features. Anomalies were tested either with STPs or test units, depending on the size of the anomaly. If anomalies were determined to be cultural features, they were assigned a feature number and treated as discussed above.

During the Phase II excavations at Locus A of 18MO609 (the northernmost locus at the site), 125 STPs were excavated at 10 m intervals, 23 of which were positive for prehistoric artifacts. Modern bottle glass was noted in the vicinity of a trash dump and a single quartz projectile point was found on the surface. The bottle glass was discarded in the field. Seven 1 X 1 m test units were excavated in the areas of prehistoric artifact concentration in Locus A. Six of the test units produced artifacts, with a total of 39 prehistoric objects and no prehistoric cultural features identified. The Phase II prehistoric assemblage from Locus A consisted of 1 triangular/Potomac projectile point, a late-stage biface, an early-stage biface, 2 cores, and 63 pieces of debitage.

Directly to the south of Locus A, in Locus B, a total of 29 STPs were excavated at 10 m intervals, eight of which produced 26 prehistoric artifacts. Four 1 X 1 m test units were excavated in the areas of prehistoric artifact concentration identified during shovel testing. In total, 77 artifacts were recovered from the four test units. No prehistoric or historic cultural features were identified and no diagnostic artifacts were recovered from Locus B during the Phase II study. The Locus B Phase II assemblage consisted of 1 unidentified stemmed point, 1 early-stage biface, 1 middle-stage biface, 5 cores, 3 utilized/retouched flakes, and



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO609

Site Name: Fairland Branch

Prehistoric ☒

Other name(s) Jackson Homestead

Historic ☒

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic-Late Woodland short-term camps; Mid 19th-Early 20th century African American farmstead

Unknown ☐

91 pieces of debitage.

Shortly after Phase II work began at Locus C of 18MO609 (the easternmost locus at the site) it was determined that the scope of work needed to be expanded to include the historic resources present in the area. In total, 86 STPs were excavated at 10 m intervals during Phase II work. Six of these were positive for prehistoric artifacts, 35 were positive for historic artifacts, and 3 were positive for both prehistoric and historic objects. Eight 1 X 1 m test units were placed in Locus B during the Phase II work. Two test units were placed in areas of high prehistoric artifact concentration, one test unit was placed on the ridge top, and the other 5 test units were placed in areas of intense historic artifact concentration.

In total 156 prehistoric and 3,468 historic artifacts were recovered from Locus C. No prehistoric features were identified, but four historic features were located. Feature 1 was a rectangular cellar pit that had been filled in with both modern trash and historic artifacts. The aforementioned fieldstone house foundation (the foundation of the Jackson dwelling) was designated Feature 3, while a burn layer within the feature was designated Feature 2. The fourth feature (Feature 18) was an apparent midden associated with the burning of the structure that was situated southwest of Feature 3. The Phase II prehistoric assemblage from Locus C consisted of a probable Potomac point, an early-stage biface, a graver, 7 cores, 3 utilized/retouched flakes, and 143 pieces of debitage. The Phase II historic assemblage consisted of 146 activity items (including 63 pieces of lighting glass), 1,561 architectural artifacts (including 757 window glass fragments), 95 clothing items, 94 furniture items, 1,140 kitchen-related artifacts (including 417 ceramic sherds, 582 pieces of container glass, 36 faunal items, and 99 floral items), 39 personal items (including 3 representing possible West African religious/spiritual practices), 3 tobacco-related artifacts, 7 arms objects, and 383 miscellaneous finds.

Phase II testing at 18MO609, produced a substantial number of prehistoric artifacts, but no intact prehistoric features and few diagnostics. Artifacts were recovered in low densities from excavated contexts across all three loci. Artifacts were recovered from A and E Horizons and in at least some portions of the site, the E Horizon appears to be an old plowzone. In both Loci B and C, soils appear to be deflated or eroded. Differentiating the temporal components from excavated contexts was not possible due to the lack of stratified, datable deposits. The diagnostic artifacts identified during both Phase I and II studies were recovered from the ground surface, further indicating that plowing and soil deflation had occurred. Specific lithic reduction activities could not be linked to specific time periods due to the lack of vertical integrity at the site. Based on these findings, 18MO609 was determined unlikely to contribute useful information related to Maryland prehistory.

However, intact historic features were identified in Locus C. The artifact evidence suggested that these features dated from the mid 19th century to the early 20th century. In addition, historic records proved a connection between these resources and a historic occupation by African-American freedmen. Based on the findings, Phase III data recovery was recommended for the historic component of Locus C at 18MO609.

Phase III work was carried out immediately and methods are described above. A total of 23 additional STPs and 112 additional 1 X 1 m test units were excavated at 18MO609 during the Phase III project. In addition, a geophysical survey was carried out, but no buried cultural features were identified through remote sensing work.

Ultimately, 13 additional cultural features, a natural feature (a rodent burrow), and 1 feature of uncertain interpretation were identified during the Phase III project. The new features included a chimney remnant, cellar, 3 builder's trench remnants, 2 ash dumps, and a possible post associated with the Jackson dwelling, a postmold and posthole in the east yard, a brick pile and fieldstone pier domestic structure northwest of the Jackson house, and a possible drainage trench and another midden area in the south yard.

In addition to these features, a number of "caches" thought to be related to African American folk rituals were encountered in association with structural elements of the Jackson dwelling (Feature 3), specifically along foundation walls and in association with the chimney hearth. Some of these artifacts were prehistoric in origin, but were considered a part of the historic assemblage due to their context. Fourteen prehistoric artifacts (including a Kirk stemmed point, and Otter Creek point, a Brewerton side-notched point, a Bare Island point, a Vernon point, a Chesser point, a Jack's Reef corner-notched point, an unidentified stemmed point, 1 other biface, 3 pieces of edbitage, and a full-grooved stone axe) were believed to have been used in some form of ritual caching known to be associated with West African spiritual practices. Other objects incorporated into these caches included quartz crystals, objects incised with letters or other symbols (possibly initials), pierced coins, buttons, snake bones, pins, beads, and nails. Because the prehistoric items are associated with the historic occupation of the site, these items are included as "personal" objects in the table above and are not included in the tables of prehistoric finds or prehistoric diagnostics.

The Jackson homestead assemblage is a remarkably complete collection of 19th and early 20th century domestic material culture. In particular, this site provides an extraordinary snapshot of African-American life in the first quarter of the 20th century. The historic assemblage encompasses domestic functions as well as activities related to a working farm. The 160,489 artifacts and ecofacts recovered from the Jackson Homestead included 4,136 activity items, 28,316 architectural artifacts, 3,851 clothing-related items, 858 furniture items, 66,281 kitchen-related artifacts, 849 personal artifacts, 423 tobacco-related artifacts, 273 arms items, and 55,502 miscellaneous objects. The activity items included 1,323 lighting-related items, 39 construction and farm tools, 1 flat iron, 26 washboard fragments, 5 locks, 1,799 miscellaneous hardware objects, 76 harmonica parts, 1 mouth or jaw harp (Jew's harp), 3 other musical instrument fragments/tools, 70 stable/barn objects and pieces of tack, 625 storage items, 163 toy fragments, a whistle fragment, and a duck call. Architectural artifacts included 203 brick fragments, 171 mortar fragments, 27 door parts, 2 wrought nails, 2 wrought or cut nails, 10,785 cut nails, 2,920 wire nails, and 3,642 other nails, 32 spikes, 10,265 pieces of window glass, 1 possible window sash weight, and 266 other architectural objects. Clothing items included 96 beads (mostly seed beads), 69 buckles, 2,044 buttons (including 7 military buttons), 64 corset parts, 7 cuff links, 216 fabric pieces, 106 fasteners, 824 shoe parts, 60 studs, 144 sewing items (23 sewing machine parts, 1 spool, 1 needle, 2 bone sewing tools, 32 safety pins, 4 scissors, 60 straight pins, 20 thimbles, and a shoe last) and 219 other items. Furniture items were 73 clock parts, 119 pieces of furniture hardware, 96 "knickknacks", 166 mirror fragments, 335 pieces from a pie safe, 59 stove parts, 2 trunk parts, and 8 other items. Kitchen objects included 7,132 ceramic sherds (11 creamware, 22 pearlware, 37 ironstone, 3,186 whiteware, 101 Rockingham, 75 yellowware, 1,180 white granite, 285 porcelain, 1 English brown stoneware, 1 Nottingham stoneware, 340 Albany slip stoneware, 156 other stoneware, and 1,737 miscellaneous), 558 glassware fragments, 1,374 glass bottles and jars, 12,804 other glass container fragments, 15 can keys, 33 iron food can fragment, 52 metal kitchenware objects, 130 utensil pieces, 5,810 animal bones, 4,029 eggshell fragments, 134 shellfish fragments, 4,512 other faunal remains, 29,219 seeds, and 671 nuts. Personal items were 4 bells, 124 coins, 30 eyeglass fragments, 141 pieces of jewelry, 15 keys, 15 knives, 17 luggage pieces, 17 medical items, 149 medicinal containers, 12 purse pieces, 121 pieces of stationary, 156 toiletry items, 50 religious items and 8 other objects. Tobacco-related artifacts were 212 ball clay tobacco pipe fragments, 26 stoneware pipe fragments, 19 terracotta pipe fragments, a plastic pipe mouthpiece, and 165 iron tobacco tags. Arms objects included 202 shell casings, 12 percussion caps, 52 pieces of buckshot, 4 bullets, 1 flintlock, 1 gun hammer, and 1 other possible gun part. Miscellaneous items included 8,172 iron fragments, 5,519 unidentified glass objects, 184 non-food animal bones, 5 granary weevil remains, 3 pieces of coral, 423 unidentified univalve fragments, 33,877 fragments of wood (much of it charred),



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18MO609

Site Name: Fairland Branch

Prehistoric ☒

Other name(s) Jackson Homestead

Historic ☒

Brief Description:

Middle Archaic-Late Woodland short-term camps; Mid 19th-Early 20th century African American farmstead

Unknown ☐

6,188 miscellaneous floral objects, and 1,131 other objects.

The floral assemblage was predominantly recovered from flotation samples taken from feature contexts. In general, the assemblage consisted of 29,219 seeds, 671 nutshell fragments, and 33,877 wood fragments. Numerous taxa were identified. Within the seed assemblage 15 crop seeds, 15,074 fruit-producing species seeds, 400 edible/medicinal herb species seeds, 83 specifically medicinal herb species seeds, 548 herbaceous plant seeds, 12,868 shrub or tree seeds, and 231 unidentified seeds were recovered. The nut assemblage included 66 specimens from the Beech family, 519 Black walnut fragments, 43 hickory specimens, and 43 unidentified specimens. A total of 33,877 wood fragments revealed specimens from at least 19 different species. Detailed analysis and descriptions can be found in the full site report or in the linked ethnobotany profile.

In addition to the historic remains, 16 artifacts were recovered from prehistoric contexts during the Phase III investigation. The low number of such artifacts recovered during the Phase III did not contribute to the overall interpretation of the prehistoric component. The artifacts included 14 flakes or flake fragments and 2 pieces of shatter. Overall, examination of the prehistoric component at 18MO609 suggests a series of short-term resource procurement camps dating from the Middle Archaic through the Late Woodland Periods. Prehistoric activities at the site were focused on early, middle, and late-stage biface reduction.

The quantity and quality of historic data recovered during the Phase II and III investigations from 18MO609 enabled detailed analyses and interpretations of life at this African American homestead. An abundance of data was gathered on activity areas within the home, as was information on the evolution of the house's layout and organization. This information, along with the historic record, provides a glimpse into the daily lives of the Jackson family over a period of more than 50 years. Of particular significance was information gleaned about African American folk rituals.

Not surprisingly, the most significant data was recovered from Jackson house, which catastrophically burned by ca. 1915. The fire was certainly a tragic and life-altering event for the family. After the fire, it appears that the family split into several households, many of which no longer owned property. It appears from historic records and information provided by living descendants, however, that the family remained closely tied to the old homestead and to each other. Many of the descendants continue to live, work, and worship near the Fairland area.

The remains of the Jackson Homestead were destroyed by construction of the ICC. However, the extensive data recovery efforts at the site produced an extensive data set on which further research is still possible. Detailed analysis of the assemblage and comparison to other, similar sites remain venues for further examination.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95002049, Site Files